Middlebury

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Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program Newsletter

Fall 2017 - A Note from ISSS; Important Dates; Upcoming Events; FIS Story Corner

A Note from ISSS

Hello from ISSS! The fall term is in full swing and the ISSS team has been very busy helping our international students settle into their new home. Many wonderful families in Middlebury and the surrounding communities eagerly awaited their arrival to welcome them into their hearts and homes.

On Saturday, October 14, ISSS held its annual matching event for the Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program in McCardell Bicentennial Hall. The event kicked off the 17th year of the FIS program and the end of an involved matching process that began last spring. Host families and students enjoyed local cider
and donuts while sharing laughs and stories with one another.

Overall, more than a hundred community members took their first steps toward what we hope will blossom into life-long friendships. We had great variety among students and host families– the students were a combination of first years, exchange students and a few upperclassmen, while our new and veteran hosts consisted of community members, Middlebury alumni, as well as current and former employees of the College. Thank you to all for joining us on this very special day. We hope you enjoyed spending time together during Fall Family Weekend and have plans to see each other again soon!

February Student Hosts

We are always looking for great hosts and may need a few for our February 2018 students as well as first year students who decide to join the program. If you would be interested in hosting one of these students, please contact the ISSS office at **isss@middlebury.edu (subject line: FIS Host Program)** or at **(802) 443-5858**.

Important Dates

Thanksgiving Break –Thanksgiving recess begins on Tuesday, November 21, at 4:15 p.m. and runs through Sunday, November 26. Some students will leave campus. Yet, due to the brevity of the break, many students choose to stay on campus during this time. If they choose to remain here, they must register through Self-Service Banner (our student information system) to have access to their residence hall. Although they can stay in their rooms, Dining Services closes for daily meals so this is a great time for you to connect with your student. The last meal served in the dining halls will be breakfast on Wednesday, November 22, in Proctor Dining. Dining Services prepares a Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 23, in Atwater Dining Hall from 12-2 p.m. This meal is **free** for students staying on campus as well as faculty and staff who are working that day. For other College guests, faculty and staff, tickets can be purchased for $5.00 per person from the Box Office in the McCullough Student Center or at: **http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/.** (Ticket sales will end on Monday, November 20.) The first meal after the break will be dinner on Sunday, November 26, in Ross and Proctor Dining Halls. Then, Atwater Dining Hall will re-open for breakfast and classes will resume on Monday, November 27.

Final Exams – The final exam period begins on Tuesday, December 12, and ends on Sunday, December 17. Students have varying exam schedules, including take-home exams and term papers depending on their courses. Exams may be scheduled during the day or evening. The exam period is always a hectic and stressful time so you may want to ask your student about his or her schedule. A care package, a message of encouragement, a coffee or tea break with you or even a visit to campus with your pet is much appreciated and can lift your student's spirits!

Winter Break – The winter break begins on Monday, December 18, and runs through Sunday, January 7. Winter term classes begin on Monday, January 8. Most students leave campus for the 3–week vacation. The College officially closes for the break with almost all offices being closed during that time. Students who do not have an alternative option may request permission from their Commons Dean to stay on campus for all or part of the break. The application will be available from Monday, November 6 until Wednesday, November 16 on the Residential Life website at: **http://www.middlebury.edu/student-life/community-living/use-of-residential-spaces/Recess**. Only students who are approved are allowed to remain on campus. Some first-year students may be worried about what they will do during the break. It may be worth having a conversation with them about their plans to help brainstorm ideas and/or to encourage them to request permission to stay. Students can always adjust their request if they are able to travel off campus. Dining services will be closed after breakfast on Monday, December 18, and will re-open for brunch on Sunday, January 7.

Students staying on campus during break will have access to kitchens, but must provide their own food. The College provides a few informal group meals for those approved to stay. The winter break is a quiet and sometimes lonely time for students who remain on campus so this is a great time to invite your student to share a holiday meal or offer to take them grocery shopping with you.

Break Travel – Many students will travel to and from the airport during the Winter Break. Providing transportation for your student is not expected, so please do not feel obligated to do so. The Student Government Association (SGA) is providing discounted bus services to and from the airport in Burlington ($15 each way) and to some of the major metropolitan areas around the November and December breaks. Students can purchase tickets through the College Box Office in person or at: **http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/**. You may also direct your student to the following link for alternate transportation options: **http://www.middlebury.edu/sustainability/transportation**.

If you happen to be going to Burlington during the break times, you may want to bring your student along for the ride so they have an opportunity to do some shopping or sightseeing of their own.

January Term–Residence Halls open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 6. Winter Term classes run from Monday, January 8 until Friday, February 2. Students take one course during the winter term, so they may have more time available for activities with their hosts. If your schedule allows, it's a great time to connect with your student for fun in the snow or some hot cocoa and a movie or board game.

Upcoming Events

NER Out Loud
Friday, November 10, 8-9:30 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts Dance Theatre
Come hear Middlebury College students reading original prose and poetry from the New England Review literary magazine. *Free and open to the public*.
http://www.middlebury.edu/events/calendar_of_events

Modigliani String Quartet
Thursday, November 16, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall
A performance featuring works by Mozart, Debussy and Dvorak. *Free and open to the public*.
http://www.middlebury.edu/events/calendar_of_events

ISO Cultural Show: Saturday, December 2 – Save the date for this amazing cultural celebration! The International Students' Organization (ISO) Cultural Show is one of the most anticipated shows of the year, featuring singing, dancing, readings and more. There will be a family-friendly showcase from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and a complete show from 8:00-10:30 p.m. on the stage of McCullough Wilson Hall. Tickets go on sale at 6 am November 15 at the Middlebury College Box Office in McCullough Student Center, on their website at: http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/ or by phone at (802) 443-6433.

Find other exhibitions, performances and events at the College and in our local area by clicking on the following links:

- **The College Calendar**: http://www.middlebury.edu/events/calendar_of_events
- **Middlebury College Museum of Art**: http://museum.middlebury.edu/
- **Addison County Chamber of Commerce:** https://www.addisoncounty.com
- **Burlington happenings**: http://www.sevendaysvt.com/

FIS Story Corner

The FIS Story Corner is a chance to share the adventures you have with your students in words and/or pictures and articles that would be of interest to the FIS Community. Please send your submissions to us at: **isss@middlebury.edu** so we can proudly share them here!

The Eagan family had the pleasure of visiting their exchange student from 2012-2013, Friederike Wolf, in Germany this past summer. Pictured above from left to right are Friederike with Edward, Florence and Eleanor Eagan.

And here are more pictures from our October 14 Matching Event at Bicentennial Hall. Enjoy!

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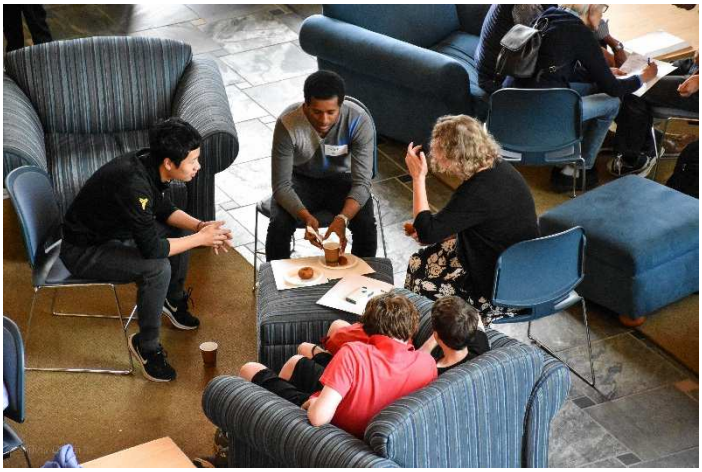

EXIT

ARMSTRONG
Stacks
Additional Seating

Best wishes to all of you for a peaceful and happy holiday season

ISSS Staff

Kathy Foley	Associate Dean and Director of ISSS
Kas Singh	International Student and Scholar Advisor
Joani Taylor	International Student and Scholar Advisor
Alex Brauer	SEVIS & International Services Specialist
Carolyn Dahm	Administrative Coordinator